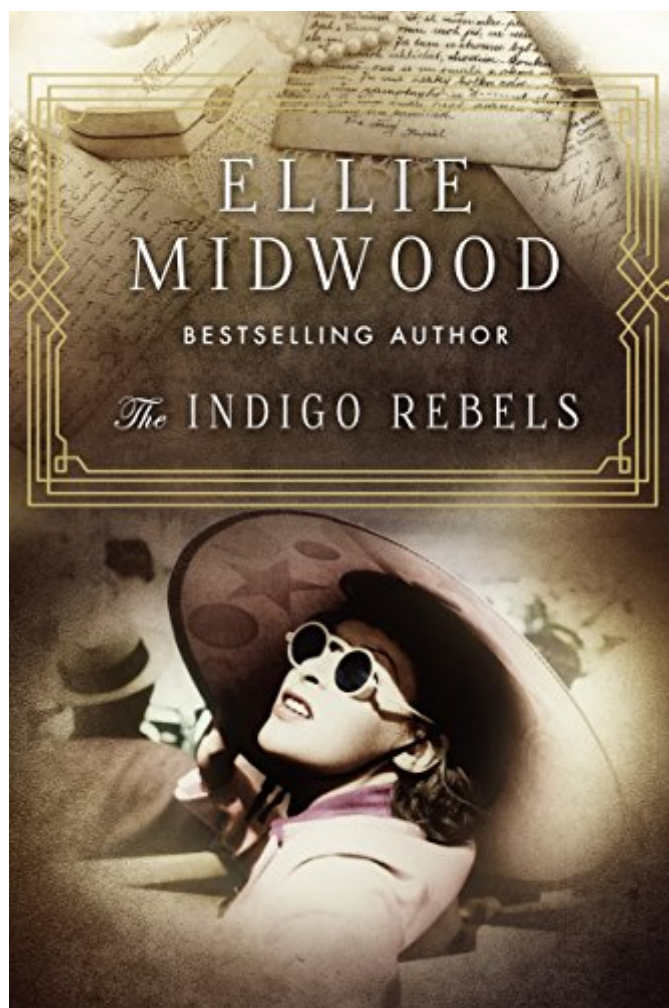


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The Indigo Rebels: A French Resistance Novel



Synopsis

France, 1940 The German army has marched into Paris. Three siblings, three very different people leading very different lives, find themselves face to face with new occupants of their city, and none of them can guess what the occupation has in store for them, and how it will change their lives once and for all. Giselle Legrand, a renowned novelist and a socialite, encounters an unannounced guest in her apartment – a newly arrived chief of the Gestapo, Sturmbannführer Dr. Karl Wänsche, who is intended to billet there and who soon starts making rather unwelcome changes in Giselle's lifestyle. Strong-willed and defiant, Giselle gets involved with one of the first Resistance cells, refusing to submit to the newly established authority despite the developing relationship between the two. Kamille Blanchard, a new widow of the war left alone with a small daughter, is dreading the approaching army. However, she never expected that she could find love in the arms of an officer, who appears at her door as soon as the German army marches in. But will Kamille be able to trust a former enemy when he has to choose between his feelings and the duty for his country? Marcel Legrand, a former history student and a deserter, fearing the capture by the Germans has no other choice than ask for the help from the ones he used to fear and avoid – the mysterious communists, who call for an uprising and freeing their country from the Nazi plague. Soon, the fates of all three siblings will become intertwined in a dangerous knot, all of them, fighting for the same goal: a liberated France.

Book Information

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Wow! Ellie nailed this one! She weaves fiction and reality, creating a masterpiece that keeps me turning pages into the night! Whenever she has a new book out, I just stop what I'm doing and there's no hope of anything getting done until I've finished! This book is based on three siblings, all very different, living in the new occupied France in the 1940s. What I love most about Ellie's books is that I feel like I get to experience history -- real history -- through the eyes of so many different people. Like all of her stories, this one is dark and light, devastating and hopeful. And of course, she puts a human face on even the most evil regimes and time periods in our history. The characterization in this novel - oh my gosh!!! It was brilliant! Giselle was my favorite character, not only because she was a writer, but because she was head-strong and a woman way before her time - loved her!!! In truth, I loved all of the characters. They all find love in the most unusual of places, and despite their differences, they all love their country very much. Their stories broke my heart and made me fall in love all at once. They felt so REAL it was uncanny!! This story was not only entertaining, but it made me think (as Ellie's stories always do). People as individuals are generally good, but then they become part of this mob that turns ugly. Ellie breaks them down one by one, and in doing so, gives humanity to both sides. Seriously, her ability to write this novels from all sides with the empathy and understanding that she does, is so commendable. She outdid herself with this new novel. The writing is beautiful and melodic, the plot thick with twists and turns, and as always, the characterization and rich history just made the story. Loved it! I would give it more than 5 stars if I could!!!

What a marvelous story! I've been fascinated by each of this author's books, whether it be about the Nuremberg Trials, the inter-workings of the Nazis, or the use of female Jewish sex slaves in Nazi camps, but I have to say, INDIGO REBELS is my favorite. Opening up in 1939 Paris just as the Nazis are encroaching upon the city, we are introduced to three family siblings, each one more different than the next. There's Giselle, hedonistic, self-involved, and strong willed, much like Scarlett O'Hara in Gone With The Wind. Next is Kamille, shy, vulnerable, damaged emotionally by a dead husband and his family. And finally, there's Marcel, the youngest, and in over his

head amongst Communist-oriented French resistance fighters. It is a time when Nazi officers are given free reign by the Vichy Government to be able to stay in any city apartment they chose to, no matter who the current occupants are or their political proclivities. It is also a time when many of the Parisian population are starving and highly resentful of people such as Giselle, who openly flaunts her relationship with the soon to be promoted Nazi commandant staying with her, and Kamille, who has fallen for her very own Nazi officer. In her case, a kind man. Great detailed descriptions of characters and settings intersperse with factual tidbits that, like all her books, had me visiting Wikipedia, eager to find out even more. But ultimately, fine descriptions aren't enough for me. As I found myself turning pages with great absorption and anticipation, I realized I was highly impressed with Midwood's well-thought out and intriguing plot. All in all, a brilliantly executed book which I highly recommend. Bravo, Ellie Midwood!

When I was deployed and a chaplain recommended "Unbroken" to me, I was a little unenthused. I felt like, just perhaps, I'd really read enough about World War II and man's inhumanity to man. Needless to say, I quickly realized how foolish a sentiment that was. Having learned my lesson, it was very easy to sink my teeth into Ellie Midwood's phenomenal new novel "The Indigo Rebels." By my count, this is the author's seventh novel set in Nazi-occupied Europe, including the highly acclaimed "The Girl from Berlin" series. Her experience and dedication to her subject matter is very evident, as each page shimmers with insight and realism. Her prose is absolutely superb, demonstrating an elegant smoothness with each new page. The characters are equally noteworthy. Giselle is a fascinating lead character, and the cast of supporting characters compliment her superbly. The topic of collaboration and rebellion in Nazi-occupied Paris is at times unsettling, but frequently inspiring. It would have been easy to render Karl as a cardboard-cutout villain, but he is well-developed and complex. The relationship of Kamille and Jochen was intriguing, and Marcel was heroic yet vulnerable. The book concludes with a powerful epilogue. If I had to criticize anything, I would have loved to see even more details of the things that make Paris what it is – the food, the architecture, the geography. This is a minor complaint, though. Ellie Midwood is quickly establishing herself as a major force in WWII historical fiction and romance. I highly recommend this poignant tale filled with love and hatred, rebellion and compromise, and the rivalry and loyalty of a remarkable family.

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